

# Caribbean Speed Printers crowns employees for Carnaval 55!!!

## We say good bye to the 'Lord of Misrule' King Momo

By Darrell Busby  
Special to Aruba Today

Tomorrow night, we will say ayo (Good bye) to carnival by burning 'Rey Momo' (King Momo). Rey Momo is burned at the end of the festivities, on the evening of the third day, the day before Ash Wednesday. Where else can you find a straw figure build out of firework.

Momo is a representation of all the elements that have to vanish before the period of fasting begins. This figure was also a symbol of infertility. Others say that the Rey Momo is the anthropomorphic spirit of Carnival. Legend states that by burning King Momo, the villagers' sins and bad luck are burned away, leaving the island pure and filled with hope for great things to come. It explains why Rey Momo is burned. In Aruba the burning of Rey Momo after the (Farewell Parade) is accompanied by fireworks, and draws a large crowd. Prince and Pancho, who are the bearers of the city's key during the period of carnival, represent customs of late Medieval Europe with its important and autonomous cities, where Merry making and Crazyiness were supposed to reign during these festivities. □



ORANJESTAD – On Friday afternoon, Caribbean Speed Printers the mother company of Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba crowned their Carnival Queens, Princes and Panchos. In the children's category, the Nathaniel Ramos was crowned as Prince, Joshua Faro as Pancho and Kailey Campos as Children's Queen 2009.

After counting the votes for the children and for the adults, it was officially announced that Maikel Arends was chosen as the Prince and Eduard Martijn as the Pancho. The Carnival Queen of Caribbean Speed Printers was bestowed upon Sales Executive Marijke Croes.

The Management and Staff of Caribbean Speed Printers N.V. congratulates the winners of Carnaval 55 and sends the message for all to have a happy Carnival weekend. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Premium Chicken Line  
Crispy or Grilled



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*Delivering innovative technology*

# Geox now open at the Renaissance Mall



Oranjestad – Geox Aruba now enjoys its soft opening at the Renaissance Mall. The concept store opened its doors to the public even before completing the setup as shoppers were knocking on the door, asking to make purchases even before the store-sign was installed.

Geox is apparently a very popular Italian brand with a dedicated following in the USA and Europe. The Geox genesis goes back to the '90s during a business trip to Reno Nevada

to promote the family wine business at a trade fair Italian businessman Mario Polegato decided to go for hike in the mountains.

Soon he became irritated by his overheating feet, baking inside his rubber-soled shoes, and in a flash of inspiration the 'shoes that breathe' were born as he punctured holes in the soles to let air in and excess heat escape.

He knew from the beginning that the idea would be revolutionary

and would change the way people think about their shoes. Polegato went home to Italy and patented the technology according to which outsoles are perforated in the forefoot area where most sweat glands are located. The micro-porous membrane he designed features holes smaller than water molecules, but larger than vapor molecules. The membrane is inserted inside the sole to allow on-going ventilation, preventing water and debris from coming anywhere near feet.

The fruit of Polegato's flash



inspiration is a comfortable line of footwear especially suited for active feet and for anyone working on his feet, standing, or walking for an extended period of time.

The benefits of having Happy Feet is enormous, resulting in a happier facial expression and a general feeling of well-being, which is especially true for women who often buy shoes based on aesthetics which sacrifice comfort.

Geox, hailing from Italy, has been in the US market since 2004 and enjoys great popularity on an international level

To admire the amazing collection for men, women and children, visit the Geox Store at Renaissance Mall; the shoes are blessed by Italian design and combine style and functionality. Geox Aruba, Renaissance Mall, tel.: 588 6736, [Geox@setarnet.aw](mailto:Geox@setarnet.aw) □

## Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

**Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?**

**A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?**



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino completes \$50 million renovation

# Bill Marriott gets a taste of Aruba's Carnival



Chairman & CEO of Marriott International Mr. Bill Marriott is pictured together with Aruba's Children's Carnival Queen and an associate from the accounting department dressed to the hilt in Carnival costume for Mr. Marriott's arrival earlier this week.

Photo by Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH – The island of Aruba held the honor of welcoming Mr. Bill Marriott to the island yesterday. He started his visit at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino with a site inspection lead by the resort's General Manager Rick Zeolla and his executive team. Mr. Marriott enjoyed a full property tour during including Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club and the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Both guests

and Marriott associates took the opportunity to take pictures with him during his short stay. Mr. Marriott and his delegation took this opportunity to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club in Champion's Sports Bar and the completion of the \$50 million dollar face lift. "We have completely reinvented our lobby and reception area, creating a public space that provides for intimate conversations and casual

lounging with seating areas that overlook our pool deck and the Caribbean Sea beyond it," Zeolla says. "Once you check-in, be warned, you might never want to leave your room - as all 411 of our guest rooms and suites have been entirely made over with brand new furnishings, luxurious bedding, marble sinks, rain-style shower heads, flat screen televisions, and modern technology," he continued. The delegation inspected the

new upgrades including the new Tradewinds Club, which is 59 room VIP section of the resort which is "hotel within a hotel" nestled on the top floor. They strolled through the amazing new Ruth Chris Steakhouse and the astonishing La Vista Restaurant boasting the most amazing view on the island of Aruba's sugar white beach and turquoise waters. Mr. Marriott's visit to the property ended with an executive lunch with the Aruba's Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, Minister of Tourism and Transportation Edison Briesen, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Authority CEO Rob Smith, Mr. Walter Stipa of Desarrollos Hotelco S.A. and the hotel operator The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C together with nearly 2 dozen Marriott & Renaissance executives.

As a grand finale to the tour, Mr. Marriott was presented a gift from 22 of Aruba's most aspiring young artists. The students of local artist Miriam De'Lisle gave Mr. Marriott a painting that each of them added to entitled "Aruba's Playground for all Generations".

Photos by Julia Renfro



## MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



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Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices  
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E-mail: water@setarnet.aw

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# The Metacorp Family Holds A Great Jump-In



ORANJESTAD - During a well attended event at Balashi Beergarden, the big family of MetaCorp came together with its subsidiaries to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> year of Aruba's Carnival. During this Jump-in, the band "Songgo" made sure to keep the crowd jumping, dancing and grooving. All this was accompanied by good carnival music that made everyone go down or "Bai Plat" like they say here in Aruba.

Gifts were given out to those who came dressed in the most colorful and originally decorated carnival T-shirts. By doing this, the employees and subsidiaries of MetaCorp got a good chance to meet again and spend some quality time together, full of fun and laughter. □



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## Anabui Residence Club hosts weekly wine & cheese party



Tierra del Sol – Anabui Private Residence Club just recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art sales gallery, located at the hilltop clubhouse of Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa & Country Club. A number of times a week, the gallery hosts informal wine & cheese parties from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., allowing potential buyers and browsers a very pleasant initial Tierra del Sol experience.

The sales gallery is open every day and previews the exciting Anabui Residence Club, designed by famed Stofft & Cooney Architects from Naples, Florida, featuring a collection of 36 spacious, concierge-serviced, residences complete with everything from gourmet cookware to luxury linens, serviced in the manner of fine resorts and maintained by a dedicated year round staff. A limited number of units was released at pre-construction prices starting at \$149,900.- and island visitors are invited to drop in to preview the detailed plans, and visit the Anabui site. The sales gallery for Anabui Private Residences and its handpicked sales team, is under the leadership of an expert in the field, Sven Ellerkamp. Sven who worked for Marriott Aruba Resort Surf & Ocean Clubs as a vacation ownership consultant for eight years came on board Anabui Residence Club to help introduce the new product to the island. The dedeed 1/10<sup>th</sup> interests with the rights and privileges of traditional real estate ownership, he says, while novel in Aruba, is a concept known around the world, already offered by top global hospitality brands and Tierra del Sol, always an industry leader, undertook the challenge of developing the first fractional resort on Aruba.

Sven explains that owners are guaranteed 28 nights in their

residence each year, with flexible scheduling, and unlimited additional usage on a space available basis. The turnkey simplicity of the project, he adds, is perfect for today's vacation buyers who wish to have their property maintained year round, who desire daily housekeeping

while in residence and who enjoy concierge services and other upscale amenities as matched with Tierra del Sol's island lifestyle to deliver golf, spa, fitness, food and relaxation, in a place that is fun and affordable. Pictured here cocktail party snapshot. □

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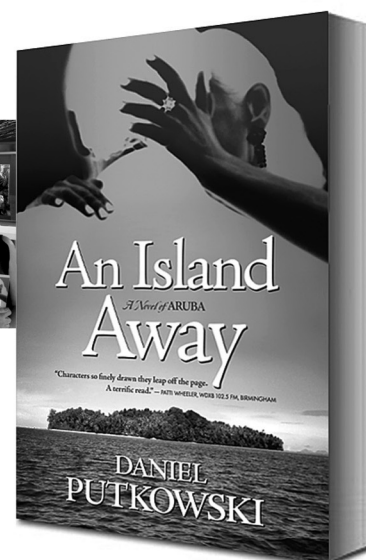
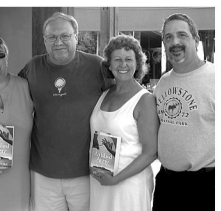
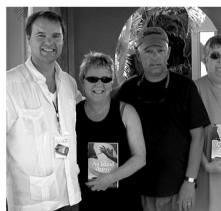
**Driftwood** Restaurant  
 Authentic Aruban Seafood

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\* Not valid with any other promotion.



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De Wit & VanDorp - Dakota  
De Wit & VanDorp - Oranjestad  
Aruba Post - San Nicolas  
Samsom Bookstore - Antraco Retail Center  
Antraco Bazaar - Casa Del Mar  
Ocean Drive - Aruba Marriott Resort  
Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club  
Mistral - La Cabana

Red Sail Sports - Port of Call  
Red Sail Sports - Hyatt Regency Resort  
Tropical Breeze - Radisson Resort  
Tradewynds - Westin Resort  
Tropical Market - Marriott Ocean Club  
Tropical Temptations - Costa Linda  
Ling & Sons IGA - Oranjestad  
Charlie's Bar - San Nicolas  
Plaza Bookshop - Dakota

During St. Maarten's Heineken Regatta

## 3 Cylinder headlines on Thursday March 5th, 2009



St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles - Heineken is proud to announce the famous Antiguan band, 3 Cylinder to play on the opening night of this year's St. Maarten Heineken regatta, in Port de Plaisance on Thursday March 5th, 2009. They are no strangers to the island, having performed during past regattas, 3 cylinder's

lead singer "Onyan" actually made a surprise appearance during The St Maarten Heineken Regatta in 2005, and he left his fans with a taste for more.

As the name suggests, Three Cylinder Band is composed of three musicians; David "Krokus" Edwards, Toriano "Onyan" Edwards and Dalma "Boogie" George.

3 Cylinder was formed over fourteen years ago, born out of their love of music, the desire to perform all genres of music and the need to accommodate small entrepreneurs who could not afford the cost of the larger band Burning Flames, also from Antigua. Burning Flames band had been the number one soca-calypso band in the Caribbean for twenty-nine years and has performed in many venues from Amsterdam to Peru, and 3 cylinder is regarded as many as just as exciting.

David "Krokus" Edwards, a critically acclaimed bass player, has been rocking professionally for over twenty-nine years. His intense style and knowledge of his bass guitar has made him a much sought after musician. Krokus often

competes in Antigua's Soca Monarch Competition and has won or placed in the top two places every time. As the founding member of the Burning Flames band he travels around the world performing. Krokus writes, composes and sings many of the songs on the annually produced CD.

Toriano "Onyan" Edwards has been in the music business writing, recording and producing records for over twenty-nine years. Onyan began his career touring with the Mighty Arrow as his guitarist/arranger helping to produce such hits as "HOT, HOT, HOT" before starting Antigua's most successful band, Burning Flames. In 1997, Onyan went solo with an album called "Crazy Man" which took the Caribbean by storm.

His song "Island Girl" has been used as a theme song in several movies and television shows. He won the crown and coveted titles as the Calypso King of Antigua and Soca Monarch King for four years. Onyan is the ghost writer for many other Caribbean Artists and has since returned to the Burning Flames band as the lead singer.

Dalma "Boogie" George started playing drums at the age of twelve in his father's Scout Brigade Band, a unit that performed for various fetes and festivals throughout Antigua. Since then he has played professionally for a number of local bands: Ebonites Steel Orchestra, Fabulous Antiguans, Expression Brass, Laviscount, Three Cylinder, Vision Band, Rawden Edwards Trio, All Star Band, and Dread and the Baldhead. Boogie likes all styles of music, especially jazz, and has recorded for such prominent calypsonians as Swallow, Progress and Latumba. He has also performed with Brian McKnight. Boogie is known Caribbean wide as "the Drummer El Supremo" and often has his personal audience at shows that come to experience his mastery and showmanship on the drums.

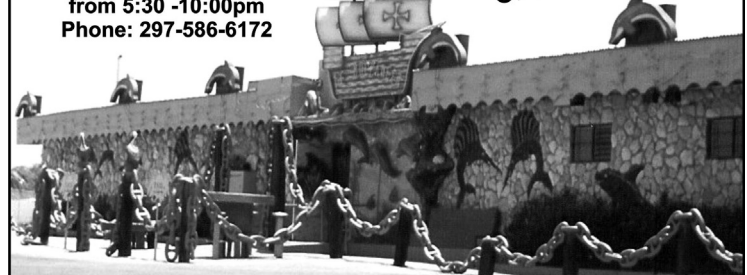
So come out and see for yourself, Thursday March 5th as Port de Plaisance, 3 cylinder-live in concert, "Serious Fun" at the St Maarten Heineken Regatta! □

## Buccaneer RESTAURANT

Buccaneer Restaurant is an island tradition for over 25 years that serve creative dishes prepared with a European touch with irresistible secret flavorings which continue to lure guests back, again and again. Feast on fresh Caribbean catch in one of the cozy booths with a view of an aquarium at each seat, surrounded by tropical splendor and nautical decor. Our second dining room resembles an underwater cave, complete with a 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, unseen elsewhere. Our friendly staff is here to give you the "Welcome Aboard" feeling and the chef-owner will personally take care of you.

Located at Gasparito 11-C, between low and high rise hotels.  
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# The French Steakhouse Gets a Seasonal Refresh



Eagle Beach – Locals and visitors have been looking forward to the seasonal menu tweak and recharge of the French Steakhouse, under the expert direction of executive chef George Hoek. The good news reached us just recently. The master has finally revealed his grand retouch, resulting in a packed dining-room every night of the week.

Among appetizers Chef George now lists his popular classics, Escargot a la Pernod and Prosciutto Ham & Melon

next to his novel selections, Authentic Aruba Keeshi Yena and Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple and mango salsa. The classic menu of the French Steak House received a pepped-up twist, also evident in the salad section featuring a Honey Glazed Salmon Salad and a Hearts of Palm with Roasted Pepper salad.

The menu now boasts more seafood, from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and

Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven! The famous South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, now shares the limelight with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. And Chef George definitely took the boring out of chicken with his Jerk Curried Skewers and Lemon Herb Broilers.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person, at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Eagle beach. □



## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar perfects beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently unveiled its new lunch & cocktail menu, conceived and presented by executive chef George Hoek.

A few months ago, when Chef Hoek joined the Manchebo's culinary team, he promised to introduce a "Sun Splashed" menu to the resort's Café & Beach Bar, thus elevating beach cuisine to an ultimate high. True to his promise, the chef delivered a contemporary menu, listing many favorite dishes from around the world, deriving inspiration off US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean menus, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

For starters to Sun-Sational Salads, to open

face sandwiches, Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, Chef Hoek went out of his way to bring novelty to mid-day platters, while not forgetting the classics, which also make an appearance on his menu starring oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano delivers authentic Italian flavors



Eagle Beach -- Italian food lovers needn't walk far. Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located within walking distance of all low-rise resorts, at the charming Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers Mamma Mia cuisine. The Manchebo's Executive Chef George Hoek concocted an irresistible menu of Italian classic specialties with a contemporary feel, served al fresco, on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool.

From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the talents of Executive Chef George Hoek, a master of flavorful sauces, delicious combinations and delightful presentations

At the heart of the menu, the Pasta section, delivers a nice variety to be shared by two or enjoyed unabashedly solo – go ahead, you only live once. Pizza appears on Giorgio's menu for

those craving thin crusts and ample toppings, with a selection of classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, naturally.

Giorgio's Piatti Principali feature a hit-parade of dishes, which make it very difficult to choose.

Giorgio's Osso Bucco will have you moaning with great satisfaction as you heap the braised veal shanks flavored with herbs and a red wine reduction, escorted by potato gnocchi, onto your fork, getting lost in the symphonic, robust flavors.

Chef George says General Manager Edgar Roelofs, is an incredibly valuable addition to our team as his food is divine, and his desserts deserve a special article on their own!

To check things out yourselves, call Giorgio's at the Manchebo Beach Resort. It is open for dinner nightly. □





## As good as it gets Exquisite Seafood & Cocktails tonight at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu



for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information  
and Reservations  
Call: 586 8333**



## More than just the best pizza on the island... Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Neatly tucked away on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.



**Casa Tua Palm Beach**

*open from 5pm to 11pm.*

**Casa Tua Downtown**

*open from 11am to 11pm,  
Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.*

For more information or reservations please call below

or ask your concierge **Palm Beach: 586 8470**  
**Downtown: 588 5695**

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PALM BEACH – Red Sail Sports is excited to let everyone know about its Catamaran Sailing program. A perfect combination of romance and relaxation, the moonlight sail along the scenic Aruban coastline offers food, drinks, music and more. Nibble on tantalizing snacks while you sit back and enjoy the sounds of live Caribbean music. The open bar offers a variety of tropical cocktails, including some Aruban specialties – be sure to ask the friendly crew for a Captain's Special! Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing all day long aboard Red Sail Sports top quality, well maintained catamarans. If a sunset sail is a little late for the kids, you can set sail on Red Sail Sports' fun-filled Luncheon or Afternoon Snorkel Trips. The Snorkel Sails are safe for kids of all ages and brings

guests to all the best snorkeling spots in Aruba, including Aruba's most famous snorkel spot – the wreck of the Antilla where you can see yellowtail snapper, angelfish, blue head wrasse and dozens of other tropical fish. Red Sail Sports also offers a Sunset Sail where you can relax with a cocktail and enjoy the spectacular Aruban sunset. A Sunset Sail is truly the best way to watch the sun go down on your Caribbean holiday. **To make reservations or for more information call Red Sail Sports at 586-1603, visit your hotel concierge or your Red Sail Sports representative at the Hyatt, Allegro, Marriott and Renaissance Resorts.**



**Pago Pago**  
*Seafood & Grill Dining*

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Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

**Special offer:**  
Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.

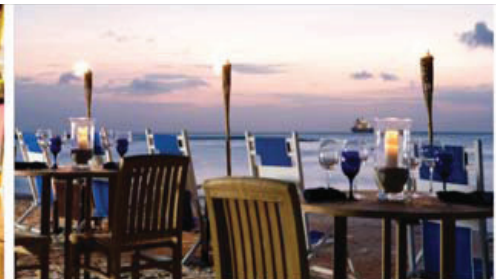


**baci  
ristorante**

Italian zest for living adds a unique flavor to your dinner at Baci Ristorante. "Bevenuti" to our Old Country piazza.

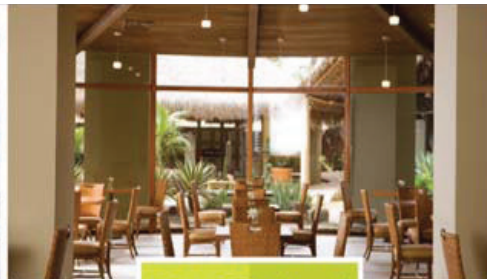
**Special offer:**  
Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons – ID required.

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# “Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



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*At the Crystal Theater*

## “Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent “Havana Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, contemporary Cuban

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“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle. Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.- Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □







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## Stanford Bank fallout touches Aruba

~HBN Law offers legal help~

PHILIPSBURG--The ripple effects of the "massive ongoing fraud" charges against Texan billionaire Allen Stanford are seeping into the Netherlands Antilles where several people and businesses have invested in Stanford International Bank. Enquiries were being made of the legal ramification of the charges against Stanford. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had charged the billionaire with fraudulently selling US \$8 billion in high-yield certificate of deposits in a scheme that stretched from Texas to Antigua, and around the world.

Several Antilleans who had invested in the Antigua-based bank have been seeking information on what legal actions they can take to recover their sizable investments. Stepping forward to offer advice was HBN Law Office. HBN has offices in St. Maarten, Curaçao and Aruba.

Attorney-at-Law Terrence Matroos of HBN Law told The Daily Herald the Curaçao office had already received enquiries, but none had been lodged with the office here. To make investors aware that the law office was already handling the case of some investors, HBN placed an advertisement in Antillean newspapers.

With the enquiries received, the law office, the largest in the Antilles, made contact with SEC and the financial supervisory agency in Antigua to ensure investors were properly taken care of.

The number of people in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba affected by the high-yield deposit scheme is not yet known. Reports suggested a number of Indian business people, as well as locals, had taken advantage of the bank's offer to invest at least US \$100,000. □

## Phase I wind farm to be completed in 2009

## Bonaire the first Caribbean island powered by 100% sustainable energy

The island of Bonaire continues on its path toward becoming the first Caribbean island powered by 100% sustainable energy. In 2007, the island government, which takes pride in the island's beauty and nature preservation, agreed to a multi-faceted project to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel energy by developing an energy system comprised of an 11MW wind farm, 14MW biodiesel plant, and a 3MW backup battery.

Ecopower Bonaire BV, a consortium consisting of Evelop, Enercon, and MAN, is spearheading this project that is expected to complete its first phase by the end of 2009. The project developers have already completed the installation of a pilot 330KW wind turbine, whose current energy production exceeds any initial expectations. Accordingly, 12 additional 990 KW wind turbines are being

installed on the north coast of the island, where wind and surf conditions are most ideal. By the end of 2009, these wind turbines should produce 44% of the island's energy. The remaining 56% will be produced by the planned 14MW biodiesel generators, utilizing fuel derived from algae, which will enable the island to shift to 100% sustainable energy supply within five years. All electricity generated will be delivered to WEB (Water and Energy Bonaire). After completion of the entire project, Ecopower Bonaire BV will remain owner of the wind-biodiesel system. Located eighty-six miles east of Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire offers year-round sunshine, low annual rainfall, pristine coral formations and the most thriving fish population in the Caribbean. Ideal for adventurers, explorers

and sun-worshippers alike, Bonaire offers myriad eco-adventure activities including world renowned scuba diving and snorkeling, windsurfing, kiteboarding, mountain biking, sea and mangrove kayaking, horseback riding, nature tours, hiking, bird watching, sailing and deep sea and bone fishing. And with a selection of accommodations ranging from full-service oceanfront resorts and condominiums to guesthouses and small inns, Bonaire has something for every lifestyle and budget. Bonaire is the recipient of the prestigious Islands Magazine/Caribbean Tourism Organization 2008 Sustainable Tourism Award and continues to be recognized as one of the top destinations worldwide for its sustainable tourism as reported by National Geographic Traveler magazine (March 2004) and Islands Magazine

(December 2007), and as one of the top diving destinations in the Atlantic/Caribbean for seven years in a row in the Scuba Diving magazine's Readers' Choice Awards (2003-2008). It was designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as having the healthiest reefs in the Caribbean (January 2008), and as the Favorite Dive Destination in the World by About.com (June, 2008). In 2009, the island will be Celebrating Bonaire's Commitment to Conservation, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Washington-Slagbaai National Park and the 30th Anniversary of the Bonaire National Marine Park. There will be a variety of festivities and events throughout the year, celebrating these combined years of nature protection for the island. □

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## Amerijet to Operate Boeing 767-200 Cargo Aircraft



Amerijet International, Inc. announced today it has signed a seven year agreement with Cargo Aircraft Management, Inc. (CAM), a subsidiary of Air Transport Services Group, Inc. (ATSG) to lease five Boeing 767-200 freighter aircraft. The 767s will enable the airline to increase capacity on its scheduled service routes, and expand its charter availability.

"Amerijet had identified this

aircraft as key to our long term leadership in the markets we serve and crucial in enabling us to expand our service throughout the Americas", said Pam Rollins, SVP. of Business Development. "Our customers will be very happy to have this aircraft available to service their needs, including charters, both within our current service region and beyond".

"Amerijet is planning to increase frequency to several

favorable markets and potentially add new long-haul routes" Pamela Rollins further added, "Amerijet's strong foothold in its existing markets, flexibility and reputation for outstanding performance will allow us to grow with our customers".

The carrier's current fleet of eight Boeing 727-200s are deployed on scheduled and charter flights, to points in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America.

Amerijet International, Inc. is a full-service multi-modal transportation and logistics provider, offering international, scheduled all-cargo transport via land, sea, and air. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida-based Amerijet operates offices all over the world, serving destinations



throughout North, South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Amerijet operates from its primary hub at Miami International Airport, where it maintains a 210,000-square-foot export, 100,000-square-foot imports air cargo handling facility, a 50,000-square-foot ocean cargo handling facility

and a custom-built 10,300 square-foot (227,419 cu. ft.) cooling facility specially designed to maintain the cool chain integrity of perishables during the transportation process offering not only refrigerated, but frozen, and chilled storage. For additional information, visit Amerijet on the web at [www.amerijet.com](http://www.amerijet.com). □

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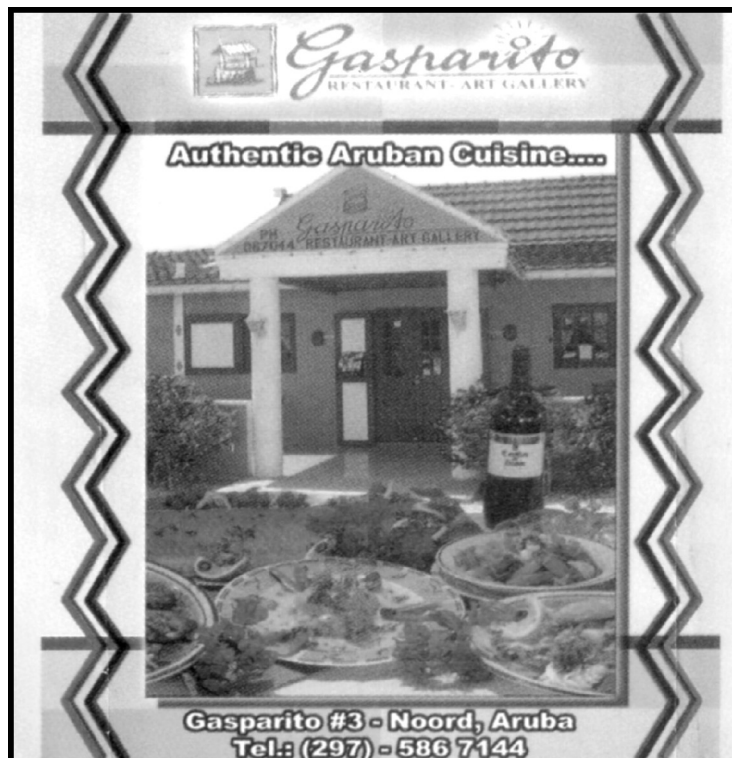
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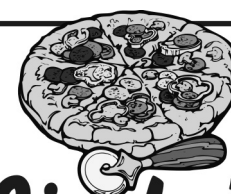
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# Rocking the Boat

Money laundering, terrorist financing and discriminatory taxation no longer top Europe's regulatory agenda. 'Transparency' is the new name of the game, says Christopher Owen

The year 2008 will remain indelibly etched on the collective psyche of the offshore banking sector. Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the heights of European banking secrecy, were assailed by tax investigations of unprecedented severity while the near collapse of the global financial system injected renewed vigour into international efforts to pierce the offshore veil. Probes into Bernie Madoff's \$50bn fraud look set to pile further opprobrium on opaque investment structures. The German authorities chose St Valentine's Day 2008 to call on Klaus Zumwinkel, chief executive of Deutsche Post, seeking evidence that he had transferred millions of euros to a bank in Liechtenstein to evade German taxation. It was to be the first of many such raids across Germany.

The German government said that it had paid an informant €4.2m for a CD containing bank data from LGT Group, the biggest bank in the Alpine tax haven of Liechtenstein. It also said the BND, Germany's intelligence service, had been involved. LGT, owned by the principality's ruling family, admitted that the data comprised bank information on 1,400 clients. It had been stolen by a former employee who had "abused his position of trust to compile information about clients".

The highest proportion of clients, about 600, were resident in Germany but information had also been sold to the tax authorities of the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and France. The German government said it was willing to share relevant data on non-German individuals or entities with other governments: tax authorities in Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Spain, and the Czech Republic all indicated their interest.

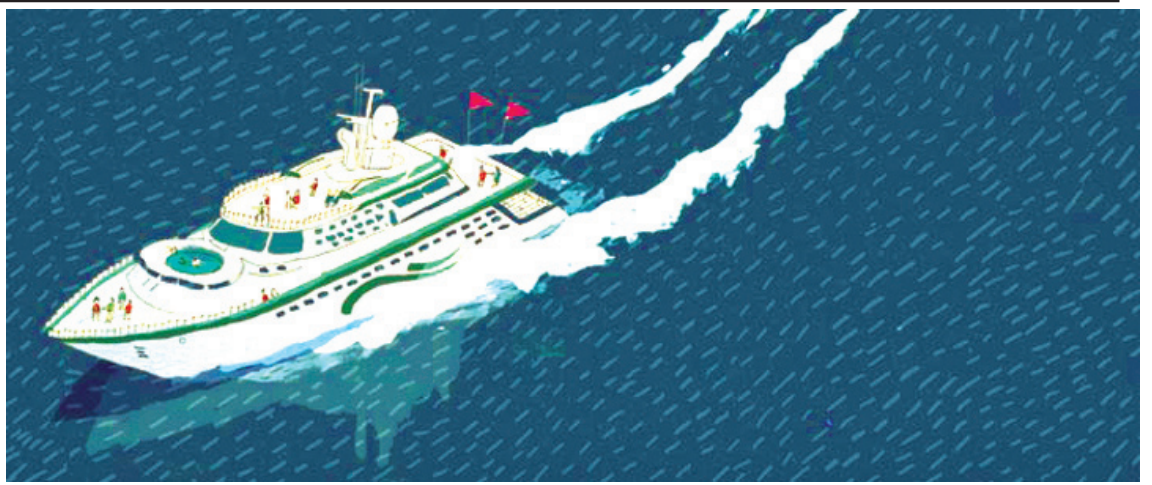
Liechtenstein's acting head of state Prince Alois, accused Germany of using "draconian methods that defy the rule of law" and failing to respect his country's sovereignty. "Germany has clearly failed to understand how one behaves towards a friendly state," he said. But as the investigation

snowballed, such a stance looked increasingly untenable. Liechtenstein has subsequently concluded a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the US and also indicated its willingness to cooperate with individual EU countries. Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II noted that the process of rethinking should have begun earlier. "I do believe that, with respect to our financial centre, Liechtenstein has always waited until no other option was available, until the pressure from abroad became so great that we had to implement reforms."

The second seismic case involved Switzerland's largest bank, UBS. An investigation by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) into Igor Olenicoff, a Russian-born property developer in California who pleaded guilty to tax fraud in December 2007, had also brought the name of Bradley Birkenfeld, his private banker, to the attention of the authorities. Birkenfeld, a US citizen, was employed as a director in UBS's private banking unit from 2001 to 2005. In May 2008, he flew to Boston, from Switzerland, for a school reunion. Arrested as he stepped off the plane, Birkenfeld was later charged with conspiring to defraud the US by creating bogus trusts and corporations to hide some €150m in assets. Birkenfeld, who had been cooperating with US investigators for over a year from Switzerland, entered into a formal plea agreement to reveal what he knew about UBS's offshore private banking business.

In 2001 UBS had committed, under the US's new Qualified Intermediary (QI) regime, to provide US tax officials with information on any customers receiving taxable US income. Instead, according to Birkenfeld, it assisted wealthy US clients to conceal their ownership of assets held offshore by creating sham entities and then filing IRS forms falsely claiming that the entities were the owners of the accounts. UBS had approximately €15bn of assets under management in 'undeclared' accounts for US taxpayers.

Battle lines were drawn on 1 July 2008 when a federal judge in Miami approved an IRS summons obliging UBS to turn over records on 19,000 US citizens thought to have undisclosed offshore accounts. This was a direct challenge



to Swiss bank secrecy. IRS commissioner Doug Shulman said in a statement: "People should take notice that the secrecy surrounding these accounts is rapidly fading."

Later that month, Mark Branson, UBS's chief financial officer of global wealth management and business banking, apologised to the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for "any compliance failures that may have occurred" and said UBS would no longer provide offshore banking services to US citizens.

But, on 6 November, the US upped the ante. A grand jury in Florida indicted Raoul Weil, chairman of global wealth management at UBS, on one charge of conspiring to help US citizens hide assets from the IRS to maintain a "profitable" business for the Swiss bank. Weil, who denies being aware of, engaged in or tolerating any illegal conduct in the operation of UBS's US cross-border business, was declared a fugitive from US justice on 13 January this year.

UBS currently finds itself torn between US demands for disclosure and the Swiss banking code. Already the ramifications have led to regulatory action: last October the IRS issued new rules, effective from 2010, to tighten the QI regime that allows participating foreign banks to withhold tax overseas on behalf of US clients without disclosing their names to the IRS. Banks will be required to determine whether US investors are behind the foreign accounts they set up and to alert the IRS to any potential fraud they detect, whether through their own internal controls, complaints from employees or investigations by regulators.

Likewise, the Liechtenstein case prompted the EU to strengthen its Savings Tax Directive. Last November, the European Commission adopted a proposal to close existing loopholes and expand the Directive to cover the taxation of interest payments channelled through intermediate structures

and to income derived from investments in certain financial and insurance products.

At the same time, the EU is attempting to extend its geographic reach.

The Directive currently applies in 42 jurisdictions: the 27 EU member states, five non-EU 'third countries' – Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra and San Marino – and 10 dependent and associated non-EU territories – Anguilla, Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles and the Turks & Caicos Islands. The

European Commission started discussions on applying the Directive with Hong Kong, Singapore and Macao last year. Formal negotiations are expected to take place with Norway, at its request, while Bermuda and Iceland have shown interest in participating. EU tax commissioner László Kovács said the measures "will ensure a level playing field for financial intermediaries throughout the world."

These moves are taking place against the backdrop of an ongoing supranational initiative, led by the OECD, to bringing greater transparency to financial centres. □

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# Financial Crisis: "Silver Bullets" for Toxic Mortgages?

By David Bogoslaw

With the financial crisis quickly becoming President Obama's primary burden, his Administration has intensified its efforts to stem the rising tide of foreclosures in order to solve the root cause of the difficulties. On Feb. 11, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the Housing & Urban Development Dept., met with community groups and key stakeholders in the banking industry to gauge support for a potential program that would allow the government to directly buy whole loans from servicers of mortgage-backed securities (MBS) in order to modify them -- and keep more borrowers in their homes.

This is just one of several proposals the Obama Administration is considering as it comes to terms with the dire need to prevent further waves of foreclosures amid a deepening recession. There were foreclosure filings on 274,399 U.S. properties in January, down 10% from December but 18% higher than a year ago, according to RealtyTrac, a foreclosure research firm. In December, the Mortgage Bankers Assn. said that a record 1 in 10 U.S. families with a mortgage are either in arrears or having their house repossessed. Banks and other mortgage servicers have been doing loan modifications under an Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. program since the first quarter of 2008, but many have failed to benefit from a cookie-cutter approach that's paid insufficient attention to the financial condition of individual homeowners. And these "mods" haven't addressed the need for a wholesale cleaning out of some of the most toxic loans, those collected in securitized pools and sold piecemeal to vast numbers of investors. The problem is that there is no flexibility to modify the terms of individual mortgages in most of the Pooling and Servicing Agreements, or PSAs, that govern these mortgage pools.

Employment is Key

At the Feb. 11 meeting with Geithner and Donovan, John Taylor, president and chief executive of National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), made the case for loan modifications on a large scale through the

Homeowners Emergency Loan Program. This would allow the Treasury to buy distressed loans at big discounts, essentially equivalent to current market value, from the securitized pools. The government would only buy loans of borrowers who still have jobs, but the loans wouldn't necessarily have to be delinquent. For example, they could be loans whose monthly payments are eating up more than 50% of a homeowner's monthly income and therefore are at risk of future default.

"That creates the leeway for the government to buy these without any subsidies," says Taylor. That wouldn't even require much taxpayer money from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) if the government could turn around and sell the loans to banks that have received TARP funds, such as Wells Fargo and Citigroup.

Citigroup declined to comment on whether it would be willing to buy loans from the government and modify and service them. The bank, along with JPMorgan Chase, did formally announce on Feb. 13 a moratorium on foreclosures through Mar. 12 in order to allow time for the Obama Administration to develop a plan to provide relief to struggling homeowners. Those plans are expected to be released by the end of February. Wells Fargo and Bank of America, didn't respond in time for this story to be filed.

Looking to Fannie and Freddie Banks which end up buying the loans from the government would refinance them and either keep them in their own portfolios, or sell them to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to be re-securitized, Taylor adds. "Fannie and Freddie could show the investment community the way back home to trust mortgage-backed securities again," says Taylor. "When we can show that the American system of finance has returned to some responsible, ethical practices, I think the market will follow." Mortgage loan servicers such as Selene Finance and Ocwen Financial agree that the only real solution to the mortgage mess -- and, by extension, the entire financial crisis -- is to remove toxic loans from the pools and allow banks and other servicers to do modifications in line with what the homeowners can afford.

Not so fast, say MBS investors such as William Frey, chief executive of Greenwich Financial. Greenwich filed a lawsuit in December against Bank of America in New York State Supreme Court, charging that the proposed modification of roughly 400,000 loans originated by Countrywide Financial, which BofA acquired in July 2008, was illegal. Frey says he can afford to pursue the lawsuit only if the court approves all 374 trust contracts -- the instruments through which investors hold MBS -- as a class action. He has said that any loans the government wants to modify that are trapped in securitizations will have to be bought at par, even though that's not equitable given the much lower fair market values of many loans. Otherwise, it will take a long time for investors to trust mortgage contracts again. Hard to Track Down MBS Investors

Taylor at NCRC and others argue that even at 70% on the dollar, the investors in securitized mortgage trusts would be getting more for these loans than the 50% and less on the dollar at which some recent sales have been done. But Frey counters that because losses are allocated to the bottom classes of investors when the loss is finalized after the sale of the loans, the sooner losses are determined, the sooner the lower rungs of investors stop getting paid. "This whole morass is actually working to the benefit of some classes. If (servicers) were to expedite the losses, they'd expedite crystallization of losses," he says. Then servicers would run a greater risk of being sued by those investors, he adds.

Safe harbor legislation that would protect servicers from lawsuits came up in hearings on the Hope for Homeowners bill that was being marked up in the House Financial Services Committee in early February, says Allan Krinsman, a partner at law firm Stroock & Stroock. "(Committee chairman Representative) Barney Frank (D-Mass.) understands this issue and has indicated he's willing to give servicers relief. Now it's about convincing the rest of the committee to put it into the legislation," he says. It's not that easy to track down individual MBS investors,

many of whom hold shares in these securities through their brokerage accounts, in a timely manner, according to Gary Silverstein, a partner in the tax department at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP. And while some investors may be willing to approve the sales, "there could be some investors who will withhold their consent to renegotiate a better deal or just out of spite perhaps," he says.

Financial Accounting Modifications Necessary  
Karen Bellezza, who heads Selene Finance, which has been modifying non-securitized home loans since 2007, says the talk in the industry is that trustees aren't reaching out to investors to get their consent for loan mods, partly because they don't even know who to contact. She says she's convinced that removing these loans from the securitized pools is the only way to get control over them. Paul Koches, general counsel at Ocwen Financial, believes the key to allowing the government to buy whole loans from the trusts that hold them before they default lies in amending Financial Accounting Standard 140 (FAS 140), which doesn't permit the outright sale of loans pre-foreclosure out of those trusts. "If that could be re-characterized as a loan servicer activity, it would arguably pass muster under FAS 140 and satisfy the purchase of whole loans" before they default, he says. He thinks that clear guidance on that point "would be a silver bullet" to start the cleanup of the financial crisis. Making that all the more important is data from the Federal Housing Finance Administration (FHFA) showing that although just 16%

of the 55 million outstanding mortgages in this country are in private label securitized trusts, those mortgages account for about 62% of the delinquencies, adds Koches.

Motivated to Get the Market Running

Not every single securitization will demand investor consent, but even the ones that don't may require a nod from ratings agencies, which might not be able to act fast enough to approve any amendments to documentation governing the securitized pools of mortgages, says Silverstein at Cadwalader. The American Securitization Forum, a unit of the Securities Industry & Financial Management Assn. that represents MBS servicers and investors, has publicly supported the idea of government purchases of loans from private-label securities since November 2008.

Given that most people in the securitization industry are suffering, they're as motivated as anyone else to get the market running again, says Silverstein at Cadwalader. But they're resistant to aggressive proposals, such as one that didn't make it into the stimulus bill, that threaten to rescind tax-free status from any trusts that fail to agree to any changes the government may ultimately require, he adds.

Other Avenues of Relief

There are other proposed plans by the Treasury and the Federal Reserve in the offing that are intended to provide relief to struggling homeowners, including subsidies for mortgage payments. "We need a concrete program with some real rules and structure around it so the industry can move on," says Bellezza at Selene. □

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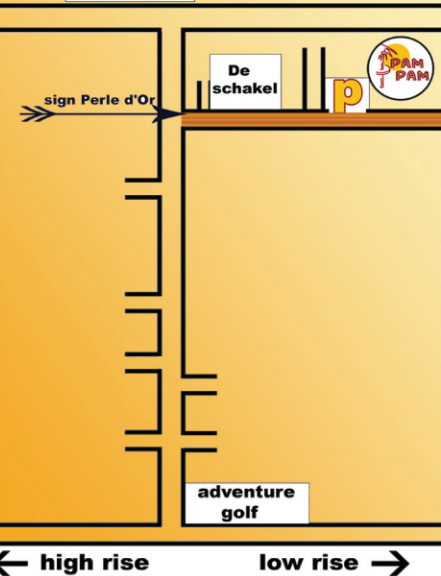
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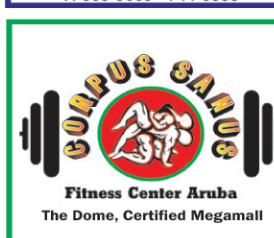


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Monday, February 23, 2009

# Bailout for homeowners stirs up strong feelings

By STEVENSON JACOBS  
and ALAN ZIBEL

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. banks got bailed out. So did automakers. So why not struggling homeowners?

The question has struck a raw nerve across the United States, with critics saying the Obama administration's latest housing rescue rewards people who bought homes they could not afford. Others counter that the taxpayer-financed plan will halt the downward spiral in home prices and avert a deeper economic disaster.

The debate captures the strong emotions stirred up over who benefits as the government tries to fix the financial crisis. It's likely to remain on the front burner for months as lawmakers consider other contentious issues — like whether bankruptcy judges should be given the power to impose changes on borrowers' home loans.

"I feel like I'm doing the right thing paying my mortgage, and now apparently I have to pay my neighbor's mortgage, too. People are really angry," said Kim Sansom Guymon, a stay-at-home mom who bought a three-bedroom home with her husband in suburban Seattle in 2001 and has watched it drop \$150,000 in value since last summer.

Rescuing distressed homeowners does not sit well with Robert Bechler, either. Still, the 37-year-old flooring contractor said he sees little choice.

"If they don't bail those people out, it's just going to get worse. It's a necessary evil, I suppose," said Bechler, who with his fiancée just bought a house in Cape Coral, Florida, for \$92,000 after waiting years for prices to fall.

The rescue plan unveiled Wednesday by President Barack Obama offers \$75 billion in incentives for banks and investors to reduce struggling home borrowers'



A house under foreclosure is shown in an Oakland, Calif., neighborhood, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Some say the new rescue plan for troubled homeowners rewards people who bought homes they couldn't afford. Others counter that the rescue will help avert a deeper economic disaster.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B4

## Ex-President Bush, Laura Bush move to Dallas home

By JEFF CARLTON

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — A month after leaving the White House, former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, moved into their new Dallas home Friday.

Bush's motorcade drove past a security barricade in the late afternoon, bringing the former first couple to their new residence: a 1959 ranch-style brick home that sits at the top of a quiet dead end street in a wealthy Dallas neighborhood. Bush waved to a jogger as he rode by, and the jogger waved back.

"President and Mrs. Bush are glad to be back in Dallas, appreciate the warm welcome by their neighbors, and look forward to once again being part of the Dallas community," said Rob Saliterman, a spokesman for Bush's office in Dallas. The couple's new home has about 8,500 square feet, four bedrooms, four-and-a-half bathrooms and a wet bar. Local property records indicate the home on Daria Place is worth about \$2.1 million.

The house has a wide front yard and dark shutters, with a gate at the top of the driveway that affords some privacy. The Dallas City Council last month approved installation of a security gate that will eventually block access to the street.

Dallas police and Secret Service agents have set up a barricade in recent days limiting access to the neighborhood. They have even turned away delivery vans; packages must be dropped off with security personnel, who hand-deliver them.

The home is in the Preston Hollow area of Dallas, home to some of Texas' wealthiest residents and most expensive homes. Some front lawns have sported "W" signs. Others have signs saying "Welcome home George & Laura."



Former President George W. Bush smiles at the camera as he arrives in the neighborhood of his new residence in Dallas, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. A month after leaving the White House, Bush and his wife, Laura, moved into their new Dallas home Friday.

Associated Press

Neighborhood homeowners include Mark Cuban, who owns the Dallas Mavericks basketball team, billionaire businessman T. Boone Pickens, Republican donor Harold Simmons and recently retired Exxon Mobil CEO Lee R. Raymond.

Laura Bush has been staying in Dallas for at least the last few days and has been spotted at area restaurants. The former president has been staying at his ranch in Crawford, about 95 miles south of Dallas. His motorcade drove up from the area Friday, stopping at Bush's Dallas office before continuing to the new home.

It's a homecoming of sorts for the Bushes, who lived in Dallas from December 1988 through January 1995, before moving to the Texas governor's mansion in Austin. Laura Bush is a graduate of nearby Southern Methodist University, which will house her husband's presidential library and think tank. □





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## Cartoonists treading lightly when drawing Obama

By JESSE WASHINGTON

AP National Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz was in front of a classroom full of black and Latino kids, drawing presidents. He sketched Bush, then Clinton. Next came his favorite, the man he voted for: Obama.

“Hey, those lips are big,” Alcaraz heard a black girl say from the back of the room.

Alcaraz was disturbed. “I try to bend over backwards not to make him look like a cartoon stereotype,” and certainly not a racial stereotype, he said.

Editorial cartoonists are bending over backwards a lot these days, as they try to satirize the nation’s first black president. And when they don’t, the result is the kind of outcry that erupted this week after a New York Post cartoon featured a bloody chimpanzee — intentionally or unintentionally evoking racist images of the past.

The problem is, cartoonists make their living by making fun of people — especially presidents — and exaggerating their features and foibles.

The best political cartoons are “like an X-ray machine,” said Amelia Rauser, an art history professor at Franklin & Marshall College and author of “Caricature Unmasked,” which examines the art form’s historical role in political discourse.

“You have to deform someone facially in order to make a larger point about their character,” Rauser said. “But that deformity reveals their inner truth and makes them look more like themselves.”

The late Herblock often saddled Richard Nixon with an enormous cartoon nose. Liberals drew George W. Bush like a simpleton, or worse. There have been minor kerfuffles from the left about drawing Hillary Clinton as insufficiently feminine, and from the right about depicting Condoleezza Rice as servile to President Bush.

Drawings of President Barack Obama, however, must contend with America’s history of degrading racial imagery, from ape comparisons to enormous “Sambo” lips. (Caricatures

of the president’s admittedly large ears have so far escaped scrutiny.)

Michael Cavanaugh, who blogs about comics for The Washington Post, wrote that “an unnerving number of North America’s political cartoonists are bizarrely obsessed with President Obama’s lips.” He followed with a detailed analysis of several cartoons where Obama’s lips were large, some shade of blue, or both.

On Wednesday, the New York Post published an editorial cartoon showing a chimp shot to death by police officers. “They’ll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill,” the caption reads.

Amid widespread black condemnation, the Post initially defended the panel by its longtime cartoonist Sean Delonas, saying it referred to a chimp that recently attacked its owner’s friend and was killed by police. The newspaper apologized “to those who were offended” after 200 protectors

picketed the Post offices on Thursday.

During the presidential campaign, The New Yorker magazine was accused of racism for an infamous cartoon of Obama dressed as a Muslim, fist-bumping his wife, Michelle, who was toting a machine gun and sporting a black-power Afro. The magazine said it was satirizing right-wing smears of the Obamas.

Scott Stantis, editorial cartoonist for The Birmingham News in Alabama, said he received several complaints this week that his Obama drawings look “simian.” As a conservative in a city that’s 77 percent black, Stantis has learned to consider the feelings of his audience.

“Being the typical American editorial cartoonist — doughy, white, middle-aged — I’m more than willing to accept that I don’t know what may or may not be offensive,” he said. “But editorial cartoons are supposed to be offensive, and provocative. We’re entering



This illustration provided by Mike Lester shows a political cartoon by Mike Lester depicting President Barack Obama, right, and Michelle Obama.

Associated Press

new waters here. What can you use or not use?”

“All my characters look simian,” he said. “I don’t make Obama look nearly as simian as our former Gov. Fob James, who I DID draw as a monkey, on more than one occasion. And he’s a white guy. ... I’m sorry, but when it comes to African-

Americans, you just don’t draw monkeys.” Ted Rall, president of the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists, said that Obama’s race has affected how his colleagues do their jobs: “Without a doubt, people are stepping more gingerly. People are tiptoeing their way through this.” □

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A house under foreclosure is shown in an Oakland, Calif., neighborhood, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Some say the new rescue plan for troubled homeowners rewards people who bought homes they couldn't afford. Others counter that the rescue will help avert a deeper economic disaster

*Associated Press*

Republican lawmakers and conservative pundits immediately denounced the plan as an affront to free market principles and said it promotes irresponsible borrowing.

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, a Texas Republican, summed up the plan as "Nice guys finish last." Conservative columnist David Brooks echoed those

sentiments in a New York Times column titled "Money for Idiots."

Rick Santelli, a reporter for cable television financial network CNBC, compared the government's actions to those of communist Cuba during a dramatic, televised rant Thursday from the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

"The government is promoting bad behavior, America!" he said.

Video of the exchange has been viewed over 1.2 million times on CNBC.com, more than any other clip in the Web site's history.

Supporters of the plan are pushing back.

"This is the financial equivalent of what Hurricane Katrina did to New Orleans. Did they know they were living below sea level? Yes. Does that mean we shouldn't help them? That's ridiculous," said Kathleen Day of the nonprofit Center For Responsible Lending.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Obama's housing secretary, Shaun

Donovan, said it's in everyone's interest to stop the wave of foreclosures, which drag down the prices of all homes in an affected area. "What we're doing is we're benefiting everybody," he said.

Donovan said administration officials considered the potential backlash from angry borrowers when they designed the plan. That's why it doesn't just help borrowers in danger of losing their homes, he said. It also aims to make it easier for households who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth to refinance. There are nearly 14 million households in that situation, according to Moody's Economy.com.

In the coming months Congress is poised to try to hash out a set of housing issues, including whether the bankruptcy change is needed and a proposal to protect companies that collect mortgage payments from investor lawsuits.

The tussle over the housing bailout comes as the government is doling out hundreds of billions in bailouts and stimulus for banks, Detroit automakers and recession-weary consumers.

So why has the housing bailout wound up so many people? Part of it has to do with the critical role housing plays in the national identity, said Barry Ritholtz, a financial analyst and author of "Bailout Nation, How Corrupt money Shook Wall Street."

"The average family doesn't have a huge stock portfolio. But you have 100 million

families that own homes," Ritholtz said.

Rosa Valdez, a resident of Coachella, California, hopes it's not too late for her family to be helped. The native of Mexico saved enough to buy a new \$380,000 home in 2006 in the Lennar development of La Morada, where foreclosures are rampant. She fears her home could be next without federal help.

"It's our last resource," said Valdez, who was turned down when she tried to renegotiate her loan.

O.B. Brock of Charleston, West Virginia, opposes bailing out people who got in over their heads and the banks that helped them.

"It's just rewarding crooks," said the 38-year-old single mother, who said she turned down a bank's \$100,000 mortgage offer five years ago because she knew she couldn't afford it.

Others are more sympathetic. Debra Rodriguez, of Tucson, said she believes many borrowers were victimized by unscrupulous lenders.

"I could sit back and say, 'Hey, I'm not getting anything and that's not fair.' But I've been fortunate enough that I don't need a bailout," Rodriguez said.

For Chris Grande of suburban Dayton, Ohio, helping troubled borrowers only makes sense after the billions spent on other bailouts.

"Does it reward bad behavior? Absolutely, it does. But no more than the banks who offered these loans rewarding themselves for their own bad behavior," said Grande, 26. □



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# Jackson: GOP governors 'posturing' on stimulus



Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C. is shown in this August file photo at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Clyburn, the highest-ranking black congressman, said that opposition to the federal stimulus package by southern GOP governors is 'a slap in the face of African-Americans.'

By ERRIN HAINES  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — The Rev. Jesse Jackson accused GOP governors who are

considering turning down some money from the federal stimulus package of "political posturing" and said such a move would hurt everyone,

*Associated Press*

especially the South.

Though none have flatly rejected the money available for education, health care and infrastructure, the governors of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alaska, South Carolina and Idaho have all questioned whether the \$787 billion bill signed into law this week will help the economy.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said earlier this week he would accept the money available under the package and South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford said being against the plan doesn't preclude taking the money.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said Friday he doesn't want his state to tap into \$98 million in stimulus money for expanding unemployment benefits for thousands of people who wouldn't normally be eligible to receive them. He said accepting the money would require a permanent change in state law that would force businesses to pay higher unemployment taxes once the federal dollars run out in a few years.

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., was especially critical

of southern Republican governors who might reject stimulus funds, calling such a move "slap in the face of African-Americans." Clyburn, the highest-ranking black congressman, said Texas, Louisiana and South Carolina "are in the proverbial black belt" and for the governors of those states to decline dollars would hurt black residents. Those governors have rejected Clyburn's comments as absurd and divisive.

On Friday, Jackson, head of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, said the poor — who are disproportionately located in the South — cannot afford to be left out of the stimulus plan.

"It would be hurtful to the region," Jackson said. "The governors themselves are living quite comfortably, living in public housing. They should put their interest for people over any kind of ideology or political dispute." Jackson said the governors should follow President Barack Obama's example of bipartisanship.

"People in the South and in

the rest of the country need the money," he said. "To say you don't want the money, but to receive it is to posture. The stimulus will help all Americans.

The governors should welcome that gladly." Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer said South Carolina officials are reviewing the bill to determine whether to reject part or all of the money. He took issue with Jackson's comments, saying rampant spending under the stimulus bill will devalue the dollar, hurting the poor.

"We would certainly challenge the premise," Sawyer said. "We think this bill is ultimately going to hurt the very people Mr. Jackson's talking about."

Kyle Plotkin, Jindal's press secretary, also dismissed Jackson's comments.

"Nonsense," he said.

"The governor was elected to serve the people of Louisiana and he's fulfilling that obligation by taking a close look at the bill to see what strings are attached to any funds coming to Louisiana." □



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U.S. Secretary for Defense Robert Gates, right, shares a word with British Defense Secretary John Hutton during a round table session at a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Krakow, Southern Poland on Thursday Feb 19, 2009. European countries are expected to come under increased U.S. pressure to send troops to Afghanistan at high-level NATO talks which open in Krakow on Thursday after Washington announced it would send an extra 17,000 soldiers there.

Associated Press

By SLOBODAN LEKIC  
Associated Press Writer  
KRAKOW, Poland (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday that Washington could accept a political agreement between the Afghan government and the Taliban if the insurgents will lay down their arms and accept

# Gates: Eventual truce in Afghanistan acceptable

the government's terms. He was responding to a question from a Pakistani reporter about whether a deal struck by Pakistan with Taliban fighters in the restive Swat valley could serve as a model for Afghanistan.

On Monday, Pakistan announced it would agree to the imposition of Islamic law in the northwest valley as part of an agreement aimed at restoring peace after an 18-month military campaign. The pact was spearheaded by a hard-line cleric who is negotiating with the Taliban in the valley to give up their arms.

A reporter from Pakistan's Geo Television brought up the Swat deal and criticism of it by Richard Holbrooke, the Obama administration's envoy to the region.

The reporter asked whether, if Pakistan succeeds in pacifying militant activity in Swat, the United States would allow Afghans to make a similar type of agreement.

Gates replied: "If there is a reconciliation, if insurgents are willing to put down their arms, if the reconciliation is essentially on the terms being offered by the government then I think we would be very open to that. "We have said all along that ultimately some sort of political reconciliation has to be part of the long-term solution in Afghanistan," Gates said.

Later, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said: "The secretary is too polite to take issue with the premise of the question, but he was in no way equating the prospect for reconciliation in Afghanistan

with whatever deal the Pakistani government may or may not be trying to cut with militants in Swat province."

U.S. interest in the possibility of future talks with moderate Taliban elements is not new. Military commanders, including Gen. David Petraeus, have suggested that such efforts, if led by Afghan officials, would be useful. Afghanistan's government has said it wants to persuade Taliban guerrillas who are not "hard-liners" to lay down their arms in return for a political role in the country. But representatives of the Taliban, who have made significant military gains in the last two years and now control vast swathes of countryside, say they will not negotiate while foreign troops remain in Afghanistan



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## AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

|       |                                       |      |            |       |     |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------|------------|-------|-----|
| PG    | <b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>           |      |            |       | NEW |
|       | daily: 4:00                           | 6:00 | 8:05       | 10:10 |     |
|       | matinee: 12:05                        | 2:00 | late show: | 12:15 |     |
| R     | <b>ROLE MODEL</b>                     |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 5:40                           | 7:45 | 9:55       |       |     |
|       | matinee: 1:35                         | 3:35 | late show: | 12:05 |     |
| PG-13 | <b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>    |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 3:55                           | 6:40 | 9:15       |       |     |
|       | matinee: 1:10                         |      | late show: | 11:55 |     |
| PG    | <b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>             |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 4:05                           | 6:20 | 8:20       | 10:20 |     |
|       | matinee: 12:00                        | 2:05 | late show: | 12:25 |     |
| R     | <b>UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS</b> |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 3:50                           | 5:50 | 7:55       | 10:00 |     |
|       | matinee: 11:55                        | 1:50 | late show: | 12:00 |     |
| PG    | <b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>                 |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 5:30                           | 7:50 | 10:10      |       |     |
|       | matinee: 12:50                        | 3:10 | late show: | 12:10 |     |

## AT PASEO HERENCIA

|       |                                    |      |            |       |     |
|-------|------------------------------------|------|------------|-------|-----|
| PG    | <b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>        |      |            |       | NEW |
|       | daily: 4:15                        | 6:10 | 8:10       | 10:10 |     |
|       | matinee: 12:15                     | 2:15 | late show: | 12:15 |     |
| PG    | <b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>          |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 3:45                        | 5:50 | 7:50       | 9:55  |     |
|       | matinee: 1:40                      |      | late show: | 12:10 |     |
| PG-13 | <b>TAKEN</b>                       |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 4:10                        | 6:20 | 8:15       | 10:20 |     |
|       | matinee: 12:00                     | 2:05 | late show: | 12:20 |     |
| R     | <b>FRIDAY THE 13TH</b>             |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 5:40                        | 7:55 | 10:00      |       |     |
|       | matinee: 1:20                      | 3:30 | late show: | 12:05 |     |
| PG    | <b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>              |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 4:20                        | 6:40 | 8:55       |       |     |
|       | matinee: 11:55                     | 2:10 | late show: | 11:10 |     |
| PG-13 | <b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b> |      |            |       |     |
|       | daily: 6:30                        | 9:10 |            |       |     |
|       | matinee: 1:15                      | 3:55 | late show: | 11:50 |     |

## DRIVE-IN February 19 - February 22

|    |                        |                      |  |  |
|----|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| PG | <b>BEDTIME STORIES</b> |                      |  |  |
|    | Thursday: 8:00         | Friday: 8:00 & 10:30 |  |  |
| PG | <b>BEDTIME STORIES</b> |                      |  |  |
|    | Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 | Sunday: 8:00         |  |  |

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

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## Pressure mounting for U.N. chief to visit Myanmar

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Pressure is mounting for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to visit military-ruled Myanmar in the coming months to promote national reconciliation and free and fair elections in 2010.

Detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, her National League for Democracy party, and others have written a letter welcoming a possible visit by the secretary-general to “discuss a broad range of issues,” U.N. envoy Ibrahim Gambari told reporters Friday after briefing the Security Council on his recent trip to Myanmar.

The British and French ambassadors said they would also support a return visit by Ban, who last traveled to Myanmar in May 2008 after Cyclone Nargis devastated coastal areas and persuaded the junta’s leaders to ease access for foreign aid workers and relief supplies.

“At this point I cannot confirm any trip,” U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said. “The decision has not been taken yet.”

What appears to be holding up a decision is the likely outcome of a visit by the U.N. chief.

Gambari’s last two trips to Myanmar — in August and earlier this month — produced no movement on the key issues of opening a serious political dialogue between Suu Kyi and the government, releasing her and some 2,200 other political prisoners, promoting national

reconciliation, and ensuring that elections scheduled for next year will include all opposition and minority groups. When Gambari was asked whether the country’s military leaders need to send some kind of positive signal before the secretary-general visits Myanmar, the U.N. envoy replied that Ban asked him to tell the government that there were “no preconditions.” Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy also said “there should be no preconditions,” he said. □

In this photo released by the Iraqi Government, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, right, speak with reporters in Baghdad Friday, Jan. 6, 2009. The U.N. secretary-general said Friday that provincial elections were an important step toward full democracy but told Iraqis they still have work to do before they can “enjoy genuine freedom and security and prosperity.” Ban Ki-moon made his second visit to Iraq as U.N. chief a day after official preliminary results showed Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s allies swept to victory in the vote for powerful local councils, an endorsement of his crackdown on extremism and violence.

Associated Press



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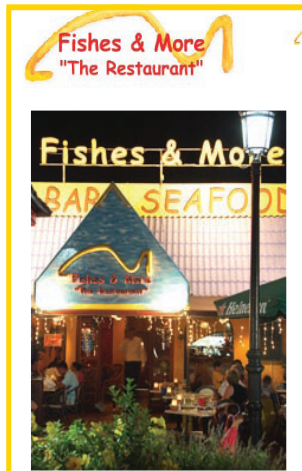


PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambience at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned

dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the daily fresh catches, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wiener schnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. Great Seafood!!! Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner ☐



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PALM BEACH - The famous Casa Tua restaurant in Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens now has a twin Casa Tua in Downtown Oranjestad upstairs in the Aventura Mall overlooking the Daniel Leo Plaza. This restaurant presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian and you are welcome tonight to delight in the savory hot and cold tapas. Casa Tua boasts the unique opportunity to sample the "Pata Negra" which is "Jamon Iberico", considered the absolute

highest quality ham. The flavor and texture of the ham is the only one of its kind and the experience of the chef carving your personal slice is irreplaceable. The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing



their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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## What a mess! Experts ponder space junk problem



This is a computer generated image provided by the European Space Agency which shows an artist impression of catalogued objects in low-Earth orbit viewed over the Equator. Scientists are keeping a close eye on orbital debris created when two communications satellites one American, the other Russian — smashed into each other hundreds of miles above Siberia Tuesday Feb. 10, 2009. Think of it as a galactic garbage dump. With a recent satellite collision still fresh on minds, participants at a meeting Thursday Feb. 19, 2009 in the Austrian capital Vienna are discussing ways to deal with space debris junk that is clogging up the Earth's orbit.

(AP Photo/ESA)

By VERONIKA OLEKSYN,  
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA — Think of it as a galactic garbage dump. With a recent satellite collision still fresh on minds, participants at a meeting in the Austrian capital this week are discussing ways to deal with space debris — junk that is clogging up the orbit around the Earth.

Some suggest a cosmic cleanup is the way to go. Others say time, energy and funds are better spent on minimizing the likelihood of future crashes by improving information sharing. The informal discussions on the sidelines of a meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which began Feb. 9 and ends Friday, arose from concern about the collision of a derelict Russian spacecraft and a working U.S. Iridium commercial satellite.

The Feb. 10 incident, which

is still under investigation, generated space junk that could circle the Earth and threaten other satellites for the next 10,000 years; it added to the already worrying amount of debris surrounding the planet. Nicholas L. Johnson, NASA's chief scientist for orbital debris, said about 19,000 objects are present in the low and high orbit around the Earth — including about 900 satellites, but much of it is just plain junk.

He estimated that included in the 19,000 count are about a thousand objects larger than 10 centimeters (4 inches) that were created by last week's satellite collision, in addition to many smaller ones. He predicted that if more junk accumulates, the likelihood of similar collisions — currently very rare — will increase by 2050.

To Johnson, the “true solution” in the long run is to go get the junk — or push it away to a

higher altitude before it has time to crash into anything.

“Today's environment is all right but the environment is going to get worse, therefore I need to start thinking about the future and how can I clean up sometime in the future,” he said.

Johnson is the co-lead of an International Academy of Astronautics study that is exploring ways of extracting space debris from Earth orbit. Some of the suggestions sound pretty spaced out.

One proposes attaching balloons to pieces of debris to increase their atmospheric drag and bring them back to Earth faster. Another, said Johnson, foresees attaching a 10-mile (16-kilometer) electrodynamic tether to debris that would generate a current, which then could be controlled from the ground enabling technicians to bring it down. □

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# Best & Worst of the Oscars: Hugh Jackmania!

Los Angeles – Oh, man, did you see that moment when that guy did that thing? Don't worry, we did. Read on and get the full story of Oscar's best, worst and otherest.

**Best Performance:** Even with the slightly forced "recession Oscars" conceit, host Hugh Jackman delivered a completely winning song and dance to open the show that totally made us forget they didn't hire a comedian. Showing off both talent and a sly sense of humor, Jackman nailed it.

**Best Lyric From the Opening Song:** "I would swim a sea of human excrement."—Jackman crooning sweet(?)ly to Kate Winslet

**Worst Transition:** From the goofily good opener—the techno Reader representation was more entertaining than the movie—the show bogged down with that somber bunch of Best Supporting Actresses intoning like they were going to banish the winner to the Forbidden Zone with General Zod.

**Best Brangelina Quip:**

Jackman drew our attention to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie before saying, "I don't actually have a joke for them, I'm just contractually required to mention them five times during the show." (Not bad; it's 25 times for us.)

**Best Present:** Copresenters Steve Martin and Tina Fey, who've been funny together on TV and film, delivered a hilarious tribute to writers that made us want to see them make another movie together. Or, you know, read something.

**Best Reaction:** Jolie looking totally charmed by her Kung Fu Panda costar Jack Black, who was onstage presenting with that actress from Friends.

**Best Twilight Crossover:** Rob Pattinson brought that undead charm of his to the Oscars, where it was familiar to Twihards and everyone who's ever had lunch with a Hollywood agent.

**Best On-Air Design:** Whoever thought to put Daniel Craig and Sarah Jessica Parker on stage together.

**Best Reaction:** Seth Rogen and James Franco's half-baked response to the comedies of 2008. Dude, cinematographer Jadoes Kaminsky was so high!

**Joke Least Likely to Reach the Billion People Around the World:** Ben Stiller's crazy, bearded Joaquin Phoenix impersonation was funny, but a little inside considering how few people recognize Stiller anyway.

**Assault With a Medley Weapon:** The top-hat-and-tails number with Beyoncé, Zac Efron and the rest totally summed up the year in movies. And that year was 1936.

**Most Likely to Spawna "Who's in Your Five?" Commercial:** The Best Supporting actor nomination five-way was like a presidential debate without all the humor.

**Most Heartbreaking:** Heath Ledger's family accepting his award.

**Biggest Showstopper:** Wirewalker Philippe Petit, the absolutely entertaining subject of documentary Man on Wire, balancing an Oscar on his chin



while a billion people watched and wondered if it would fall. But for a man who once spent 45 minutes walking between the Twin Towers, well, that's probably no big deal.

**Best Commercial:** Coming in just ahead of the one for the website that helps you earn \$5K a month working at home, the Tom Cruise-Jimmy Kimmel bit was funny like a house on fire.

**Best Make-Good Decision:** The loud and fast medley

crammed full of action and comic book movies, because let's be honest: These were the best things that Hollywood had to offer last year, and The Dark Knight (not to mention Iron Man) got robbed. Take that, Reader.

**Worst Make-Good Decision:** After that whole medley thing, the movie about the wrinkly old baby beat Dark Knight and Iron Man. Obviously, there is no justice...except that meted out by costumed heroes. □

## More than 36 million U.S. viewers watch Oscar telecast

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – More than 36 million U.S. viewers watched Sunday's song-and-dance Oscars on television, lifting the glitzy film awards show from record low ratings in 2008, according to national ratings figures on Monday.

The three and one-half hour broadcast on ABC saw "Slumdog Millionaire" triumph with eight Oscars in a show given a new twist by Australian host Hugh Jackman.

The telecast drew 36.3 million U.S. viewers, up about 13 percent from the record low audience of 32 million in 2008, according to audience tracker Nielsen Media Research.

But while the Academy Awards show still ranks as the year's highest-rated entertainment spectacle on TV, and a cash cow for Walt Disney Co.'s ABC, Sunday's figures reflected the gradual drop-off in American TV audiences in general, as well as Oscar watchers, over the past 10 years.

The 2006 Oscars were watched by 39 million Americans. A record 55 million tuned in in 1998 when "Titanic" sailed off with 11 Academy Awards.

The annual show also attracts millions of viewers

around the world.

Jackman, who plays Wolverine in the X-Men movies, starred in the 2008 film "Australia" and is an award winning musical theater performer, was brought in to give the 81st Oscar show a new look.

The traditional, joke-filled opening monologue was cut, and Jackman performed two song-and-dance routines -- one with actress Anne Hathaway and a second alongside singer Beyonce and popular young stars Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens.

TV critics, however, were lukewarm about the Oscar show. Tom Shales in The Washington Post said Jackman was a "versatile and energetic talent" but called his opening medley of songs on the best picture nominees "pointless and flat."

Alessandra Stanley in The New York Times said Jackman was a "shrewd, even thrifty choice for a recession-era Oscar night -- the hosting equivalent of a value meal."

Vibrant Bollywood-style performances of Oscar-nominated songs from "Slumdog Millionaire" put a lively spin on the evening, which saw the main acting awards go to British actress Kate Winslet for

"The Reader" and American Sean Penn for "Milk." Heath Ledger, a star of 2008's No. 1 box office hit "The Dark Knight" was awarded a rare posthumous Oscar as best supporting actor and his family from Australia gave emotional acceptance speeches from the Kodak Theater podium.

Spain's Penelope Cruz took the best supporting actress award for her part in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

Los Angeles Times columnist Patrick Goldstein savaged the telecast. "I'm beginning to believe that saving the Oscars is a job for Iron Man or Hancock, a kick-ass superhero with the kind of unassailable powers that would allow them to radically overhaul what has become the year's stodgiest awards fest." □







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## Backstage Report:

# Gasping Over Jennifer and Angelina, Saluting Heath

Kate Winslet got unapologetically Kate Winslet-y. Sean Penn held his fire. Heath Ledger's family kept it together. Penélope Cruz lost it. The Slumdog Millionaire winners raised a glass. And Angelina Jolie and Jennifer Aniston? Well, they sucked the air right out of the room. The night's backstage doings—and sayings—at the 81st Annual Academy Awards:

5:51 p.m. PT: Well, I snagged a choice seat assignment. It just so happens I'm next to a Spanish radio reporter who translated the end of Cruz's speech for me. Cruz, she said, dedicated her Oscar to her fellow actors and citizens in Spain and thanked them for sharing in her happiness.

• I kinda wish I was sitting next to a burly longshoreman, too, on the off-chance I need a Mickey Rourke acceptance speech translated.

• I just put a call into Nate Silver, the FiveThirtyEight.com guy who called the 2008 presidential election with unerring accuracy and last week said his computer told him Taraji P. Henson had the best shot at winning Best Supporting Actress. Haven't heard back from him yet. Maybe he's arguing with a spreadsheet.

• I have never, ever heard as big a gasp in the press room as when the TV telecast cut to a reaction shot of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt during Jennifer Aniston's presenting gig. At first, I thought Aniston fell out of her dress. Or Jack Black fell into it.

• Silver called back. "I can't say I'm surprised," he says of Cruz's win, which was expected by most people—and things—save for his computer. "I kinda had an asterisk on it. We had Penélope as a pretty good shot." As for the art of calling the Oscars? Silver admits it's no electoral college: "We're still working out the kinks."

• Dustin Lance Black, the Original Screenplay winner for Milk, was emotional on stage, so I'm not going to flatter myself and say he choked up back here because I'm the all-new Barbara Walters. All I asked him was whether he knew what he was going to say if and when he got to make an acceptance speech. "I had an idea. For me the whole thing was always to pay it forward. Harvey [Milk] gave me his story," Black says, before pausing and tearing up. "Harvey gave me his story, and it saved my life...I just wanted to tell those kids out there it'll be all right."

• Is there a Japanese speaker in the

house? This request goes out from an Academy flack who tells us the winner of Animated Short, Kunio Kato, has lost his translator.

• I better start looking for that longshoreman pronto...

• I'm sitting so far in the back of the room that I can't tell if Penélope Cruz or Sophia Loren is with us now.

• OK, it's Cruz, projecting some serious old-school glamour, and talking about Loren, with whom she appears in the upcoming musical, Nine: "Sophia is incredible...She's a woman with a gold of heart. What did I just say?"

• Did I mention Cruz seems to be having a slight out-of-body experience?

• I tell Cruz that all the actresses in her category looked like emotional wrecks when, per the telecast's new format, former winners paid personal tribute to each of the nominees. She didn't disagree. "It was amazing to see all those women up there, and [hear] the beautiful things they said up there...And when it happens [when you win], it was a magical moment, and I [didn't] know if I was going to survive it."

• Count Cruz among the actresses who've fallen under the spell of the wily Woody Allen. "I call Woody sometimes just to say hello," she says of her Vicky Cristina Barcelona writer-director. "I adore him. I think he's so funny."

6:45 p.m.: If the pinchably cute kids from Slumdog Millionaire look like they're having a blast at the show, it's because they are. "It was absolutely the right thing to bring them over [from India] because they're having a lot of fun," Simon Beaufoy, Slumdog's Adapted Screenplay winner tells us.

• WALL-E writer-director Andrew Stanton, winner for Animated Feature, is outlining his theories on disconnectiveness and technology. No offense to Stanton or his film, but Bolt was way easier to follow.

• Hearing people congratulate Heath Ledger's eerily composed family is eerie in itself.

• Heath's sister Kate Ledger expands on her telecast anecdote about how the family knew an Oscar was in the star's future: "When he came home from Christmas a year ago, he had been sending me shots and bits and pieces from [The Dark Knight]...And I said to him, I have the feeling this is it for you, you're going to get a nomination from the Academy."

• On the telecast, the Ledger clan said the Best Supporting Actor Oscar was

for Matilda, Heath Ledger's 3-year-old daughter with Michelle Williams, but it's actually not as simple as handing the trophy over to the girl. Since 1951, an Academy rep tells me, winners have been obliged to sign to so-called winners' agreements. The agreements say if they or their heirs ever decide to part ways with their Oscars, they must offer to sell the awards back to the Academy for \$1 each. Because she's a minor, Matilda can't legally sign this agreement. So, until she reaches 18, the Academy says, echoing what Ledger's father, Kim Ledger, told us, the award will be placed in a trust with Williams.

• The Ledger family has nothing but praise for Williams, with whom they said they had not yet spoken tonight. "Michelle keeps Matilda closeted in a nice way," Kim Ledger says. "I don't think she'll know much of the fuss [of tonight's show], which I think is a good thing." Sister Kate Ledger confirms: "We're very close with Michelle. She is doing an amazing job with Matilda."

• Mother Sally Bell says she thinks her son, who died in January 2008 at age 28, would have been "quietly pleased" with his win. "He enjoyed the performance, he did. He was very proud of what he did. Heath was never one to be over the top with anything," she says in her own understated way.

• Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award recipient Jerry Lewis, who has never been accused of being shy, will not be doing a press conference, an Academy flack announces. In other news, pigs have been spotted flying over the Kodak Theatre.

8:34 p.m.: You can't believe Waltz With Bashir didn't win Foreign Language Film. Your Oscar pool card can't believe it. Yojiro Takita, who won for Japan's Departures, can't either. In fact, he said so. "I don't believe it," Takita said. (Told you so.)

• At the exact moment Kate Winslet's film, The Reader, was going down to Best Picture defeat to Slumdog Millionaire, the Best Actress winner was being blinded by a million flashing camera lights next door in the photography room. She had no idea.

• There are no flashbulbs in the interview room, but the dazed Winslet still has no idea. Awaiting the first question, she takes deep, supposedly soothing breaths. "It's only starting to dawn on me now," she says a bit later, looking down at her Oscar. "Oh. My. God."

• Considering Winslet's won many,

many awards this award season, can she really be so unnerved she won tonight? Yup. You see, Winslet, Winslet reminds, has lost at the Oscars many, many times. "Winning is really a lot better than losing," she reveals. "Really a lot better."

• A reporter informs Winslet she's been criticized in her native Britain for being a hyperventilating, crying, perspiring mess at recent award shows. "I really don't care," she says, her wind now restored. "Quite honestly, it makes me sad the country can't be happy for success of their own kind."

• A second reporter informs Winslet that email reaction from Britain is currently running in her favor. "Thank God for that!" she cries.

• A third reporter stands, and now Winslet gets really Winslet-y. She runs from the stage, and wraps the reporter—a reporter!—in a hug. U.K.-based gossip columnist Baz Bamigboye later tells me that while he and Winslet aren't what you'd call chums, he has had a professional relationship with the actress since she was an up-and-comer of 17. "We get on well," he says.

• Sensible Britain will be happy to know Winslet had a very sensible reason for choosing her "gunmetal gray" Yves Saint Laurent gown: "I thought my mom would think it's really pretty."

• Now Sean Penn—Sean Penn!—is acting all Winslet-y, walking over to the offstage Winslet to offer her a congratulatory hug and kiss.

• Penn's Winslet moment has passed, and he again is "Mr. Penn," as the Oscar flack calls him. I have no idea if Mr. Penn is happy, sad or vaguely disinterested to have won the Best Actor Oscar for Milk. Clint Eastwood's onscreen squint has nothing on Mr. Penn's offscreen one.

• About those protest signs Penn mentioned in his Oscar speech: It sounds as if they were the handiwork of the infamously antigay Westboro Baptist Church, which announced plans on its website to picket the show. Backstage, Penn has no response to one of the Kansas-based group's more hateful signs, "Heath in Hell," which it debuted at the 2008 Screen Actors Guild Awards just days after Ledger's death. Says Penn: "It's just meaningless jibberish."

• If Penn's not going to engage the protesters tonight, then he's not going to criticize President Obama tonight, either, for not embracing gay marriage (even as Obama denounced California's Proposition 8). □



# A feel-good Oscar ceremony for the recession era

Maybe it was the adorable smile on that “Slumdog Millionaire” kid in his pint-sized tuxedo.

Or best director winner Danny Boyle bouncing in silly tribute to Tigger of “Winnie the Pooh.”

The grinning, top-hatted dad of best actress winner Kate Winslet, whistling like a champion to get his daughter’s attention.

Or an entire crowd standing together in remembrance of Heath Ledger.

This year’s Oscar telecast was striking for its many feel-good themes and moments — and perhaps exactly what we needed from a recession-era awards show.

Certainly, it was a notable contrast to last year, when darkness and cynicism ruled the nominated films, capped by best picture winner “No Country for Old Men,” about a homicidal sociopath. The

collective subject matter was so bleak that host Jon Stewart was inspired to say of “Juno,” the one comedy: “Thank goodness for teen pregnancy!”

This year’s host, Hugh Jackman, had no such trouble. He presided over a show filled with Cinderella themes both fictional and real-life. And none was more poignant than that of the night’s big winner, “Slumdog Millionaire,” with its story of love triumphing over desperate poverty, criminality and pure evil.

Lost on no one at Hollywood’s Kodak Theatre, of course, was the Cinderella-like story of the movie itself, which nearly became a victim of the tanking economy and was headed for a direct-to-DVD release before News Corp.’s Fox Searchlight stepped in to distribute it.

And there were the many personal stories of those involved in the film. As the cast

stood onstage after winning the best picture award, the cameras focused briefly on a beatifically smiling Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 10, one of the children who’d been whisked to the Oscars from a desperately poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Mumbai, where he lives in a lean-to made of plastic tarpaulins and blankets. One can only imagine how the moment must have felt for his friends and family back home.

It fell to Simon Beaufoy, who won for the film’s adapted screenplay, to make the link between our troubled times and the film’s appeal.

“It’s come out at a time when the value of money, which has been raised to this extraordinary height, is suddenly being shown to be a kind of very shallow thing,” Beaufoy said. “The financial markets are crashing around the world, and a film



**Slumdog Millionaire** director **Danny Boyle**, left, poses with **Rubiana Ali**, who portrayed young ‘Latika,’ as they arrive at the **Governors Ball** following the **81st Academy Awards** Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, in the **Hollywood** section of **Los Angeles**.

(AP Photo/Amy Sancetta)

comes out which is ostensibly about being a millionaire. Actually ... it’s a film that says there’s more important things than money: love, faith and family.”

It was a different family — that of the late Heath Ledger — that brought tears to many eyes in the most emotional moment of the ceremony, no less affecting because it was expected: Ledger’s posthumous Oscar for his diabolical Joker in “The Dark Knight.”

The entire theater rose along with Ledger’s relatives to pay tribute to this deeply talented actor who died last year at age 28, of an accidental prescription drug overdose. They heard his father express how much Ledger would have wanted to be there.

“This award tonight would

have humbly validated Heath’s quiet determination to be truly accepted by all you here tonight, his peers within an industry he so loved,” said Kim Ledger, Heath Ledger’s father.

The moment was lacking only one thing: A look back at Ledger’s stunning work as the Joker. The new format for the acting awards, with five former winners paying tribute to nominees in short speeches, may have added some touching moments — Shirley MacLaine telling Anne Hathaway that she had a great future was one of them — but it took away the film clips, an omission some found glaring.

“You’ve got all these wonderful images — so let’s see this stuff on screen!” said Jonathan Kuntz, a historian at UCLA’s film school. □

## Oscar-winner ‘Slumdog’ a millionaire beneficiary

LOS ANGELES — “Slumdog Millionaire” hauled in the most Oscars but it also received the biggest bounce at the box office of the best-picture nominees.

The rags-to-riches tale brought in an extra \$54 million domestically since its nomination Jan. 22 — more than doubling its gross since its November premiere, to \$98 million to date.

The lift for the winner of eight Oscars on Sunday, including best picture and director, was more than all of the four other best-picture nominees combined, according to tracking firm Media By Numbers LLC. “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” the next biggest beneficiary from the post-nomination period and the winner of three Oscars, added just \$20.6 million to its \$124.2 million total.

The sometime disconnect between critical acclaim and box-office success was given a humorous nod by host Hugh Jackman in his opening number.

“‘The Reader,’ I haven’t seen ‘The Reader.’ I know I need to see ‘The Reader,’” Jackman sang, referring the Holocaust-themed drama, for which Kate Winslet won the best actress award. “I ran out of time.”

The worsening economy almost sank “Slumdog” as Time Warner Inc. announced it would shut down Warner Independent, which had bought its North American distribution rights.



‘**Slumdog Millionaire**’ director **Danny Boyle**, right, holds his Oscar for Best Director alongside cast members **Dev Patel**, left, and **Freida Pinto** at the official Oscar After Party for Fox Searchlight’s ‘**Slumdog Millionaire**’ and ‘**The Wrestler**’ in **West Hollywood, Calif.**, Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

The movie was headed for a direct-to-DVD release when News Corp.’s Fox Searchlight stepped in to distribute it, eventually showing it in 1,600 theaters nationwide.

Flush with success, director Danny Boyle and producer Christian Colson said they hoped the big win would convince studios to continue to take chances on smaller films. “Even the studios will note that we made this for 7 million pounds (\$10 million), and it’s

going to cross \$100 million in the U.S. Tuesday or Wednesday. That’s good business for them,” Colson said, clutching his statuette backstage.

He hoped the success would convince studios to fund independent-style films that “don’t tick all the boxes” of criteria for marketing success. “If the best of those can get made and our film helps that to happen, well I’m even prouder of these,” he said. □



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# Inside Their Star-Studded Soirees

Los Angeles – Just call them the Three Amigas.

Eva Longoria Parker, Victoria Beckham and Kate Beckinsale were inseparable last night at Elton John's 17th annual Oscar party and benefit for his AIDS Foundation. (He raised \$4 mil this year.)

The pretty trio barely left their table, spending most of the evening chatting with one another or asking Beckinsale's hot hubby, director Len Wiseman, to take photos of them on their camera phones. Gerard Butler was a late arrival to the bash. "I want to sing at the Oscars," Butler told me. "I just don't think they'd have me."

Dominic Cooper, who did take part in the big musical number with Hugh Jackman and Beyoncé, hit Sir Elton's with his Mamma Mia! costar and rumored-to-be romantic lady, Amanda Seyfried.

"I got a phone call that said singing and dancing at the Oscars," Cooper said. "I thought it was a joke. It was good fun. In the great scheme of things it was just a little dance and sing-song halfway through an incredible show."

Across town, Madonna, Demi Moore and Guy Oseary cohosted their second annual postawards-show party at Oseary's house. So who was there?

Everyone, including Madge's ex-hubby Sean Penn, Nicole Kidman, Leonardo DiCaprio, Anne Hathaway, Gwen Stefani, Josh Brolin, Diane Lane, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Sharon Stone, Mick Jagger, Adam Sandler, Jerry Seinfeld, Jessica Alba and Milk screenwriter and Oscar winner Dustin Lance Black, among many others.

Moore hubby Ashton Kutcher Twittered about the Jeffrey Best-produced celebrity extravaganza, which took place under a temporary atrium adjacent to the house that was lit by chandeliers. "Coolest moment of the night... Meeting Jack [Nicholson] holding penelopes oscar and watching



Joe Pesci send back 3 martinis because they were sub par," he posted at about 4 a.m.

Diddy's night apparently ended quite well. "I'm holding an oscar rt now and takin a bubble bath!!!!" he Twittered this morning. "God is great!!!"

I was Twittering, too. Read on for my scoopy tweets from inside Elton's soiree and Prince's late-night party and performance.

- Sir Elton John and hubby David Furnish have hit the carpet. We—the press—have sort of gone silent. Sir Elton in hanging diamond earrings. about 18 hours ago from txt

- Just spoke to Elton. He's hoping for a meeting with Pres. Obama to talk HIV/AIDS... He's hopeful Obama will do more.

- Furnish working on producing movie Pride and the Predator. No one cast yet, but it's an alien spoof on Pride & Prejudice.

- Chace Crawford. Cute, but his hair is a bit, well, flat. And he needs to get over himself. He did only one TV interview. Really?

- Katie Price and Peter André from London. Oy, so much makeup...They're living in LA 4 three months...Katie's fave store? Kitson. Of course.

- Singing 2nite is Raphael Saadiq. He and Elton rehearsed just 20 minutes yesterday.

- Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham posing with Eva Longoria. Fierce posing...but no talking.

- Inside party now. Eva Longoria is chatting with Carrie Underwood. C.U. looks like a wedding cake. Eva looks too casual.

- Elton's table: Josh Groban, Sharon Stone, Carrie Underwood and L.A.'s police commissioner.

- My table: Eve, Dita Von Teese, Zac Posen, Estée Lauder boss John Dempsey. It's M.A.C AIDS Fund table. Eve & Dita r former M.A.C VivaGlam girls.
- Elton is making the rounds, saying hello to everyone. Hugged Quincy Jones. T.R. Knight and boyfriend r here. It's REALLY hot in here.

- David Furnish just came over to apologize for heat. Said it's first time they needed air conditioning in 17 years.

- Who the heck hires the waiters at Elton's party???? I mean, they're all hot...even Elton's security guys r hot.

- OMG! Showing Brangelina on TV when Jennifer Aniston is onstage. It's kinda f--ked up but brilliant.

- Posh Spice talking to Quincy Jones. Maybe she's asking him to produce some new Spice Girls. LOL.

- Natasha Bedingfield dress drama. Dress fell apart when she got here. Got another one and changed in Elton's room.

- Elton onstage...Calls for a national AIDS agenda...Thanks Sean Penn for his acceptance speech....auction is starting.

- Soap box that Hugh Jackman stood on in opening musician number just went for \$20,000.

- \$55,000 for two people to join Elton and David at Vanity Fair party later.

- Keifer Sutherland at the bar: Scotch straight up and a cola on the side. \$20 tip.

- Raphael and Elton performing Benny & the Jets...now just Raphael...Elton, Sharon Stone, Taye Diggs, Eric McCormack, Rosanna Arquette dancing. about

- Across the room is Serena Williams in animal-print dress...that's a lot of animal print. Juliette Lewis with '80s hair. about

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## Explosión de luz, música y color en Carnaval de Río

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - El "sambódromo" de Río de Janeiro estalló en una fiesta de música, color y sensualidad en la primera jornada de su famoso concurso de Escuelas de Samba, perla del Carnaval de Brasil y que por primera vez en 14 años contó con la presencia de un presidente del país.

Seis escuelas del llamado Grupo Especial, compuestas por hasta casi 4.000 integrantes, baterías de percusión, enormes carros alegóricos y cimbreadas bailarinas, desfilaron hasta casi la salida del sol. En el espectáculo destacó el pasaje de la deslumbrante Escola de Samba Beija-Flor (picaflor), que busca el tricampeonato y es la preferida del presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, quien saludó y festejó el desfile.

El colorido concurso, televisado a todo el mundo, culminará con el pasaje por la Avenida Sapucaí del Sambódromo de otras seis escuelas en la noche del lunes y madrugada del martes.

La ganadora será declarada campeona el miércoles, mientras que la que quede en último lugar caerá al llamado Grupo de Acceso, cuyos 10 integrantes desfilaron el sábado para definir una ganadora que ascenderá.

La primera jornada tuvo una emotiva culminación, cuando Neguinho, intérprete de Beija-Flor que lucha contra un cáncer, se casó en el sambódromo y fue saludado por Lula luego que recorrió los extenuantes 700 metros de la pista.

La agrupación, que representó en sus cantos, alas de danzantes y carros alegóricos la historia del baño, arrancó ovaciones de los más de 70.000 espectadores que colmaron las tribunas y palcos que flanquean la Avenida Sapucaí.

Algunos de los carros, el primero con una escultura gigante de Cleopatra, lanzaban agua mientras sus integrantes entonaban la samba "En la ducha de la alegría, quien baña el cuerpo lava el alma en la folia (juerga)".

"Cumplimos lo que la escuela se propuso", dijo Laíla, "carnavalera" que estuvo encargada de los detalles del desfile de la agrupación y que desplegó danzarines disfrazados con profusión de plumas de diversos colores.

Sobre los carros alegóricos de Beija-Flor y de las otras escuelas esculturales, danzarinas sacaron exclamaciones cimbreando al son de la samba sus cuerpos, cubiertos por disfraces diminutos y coronadas por lujosos tocados.

También enardecieron al público, que danzaba en las tribunas, los desfiles de Imperio Serrano, Grande Rio, Vila Isabel, Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel y Unidos da Tijuca, prometiendo un disputado concurso. □

## Changes in the water bill of W.E.B. Aruba N.V. concerning the bill of January 2009

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| <p><b>W.E.B.</b><br/>WATER- EN<br/>ENERGIEBEDRIJF<br/>ARUBA N.V.</p> <p>Oranjestad, Aruba<br/>Tel: (297) 525-4200<br/>Fax: (297) 585-7423<br/>Website: <a href="http://www.webaruba.com">www.webaruba.com</a><br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@webaruba.com">info@webaruba.com</a></p> | <p>Number di cliente : 10829870</p> <p>Number di percela : 25963-00</p> <p>Number di referencia : 1259768</p> <p>Number : MARIA ZERE ALKINERE</p> <p>Adres : PONTON 1356</p> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fecha</th> <th>Dianan</th> <th>consumo m<sup>3</sup></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>07/02/2008</td><td>29</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>06/03/2008</td><td>31</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>05/03/2008</td><td>30</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr><td>04/04/2008</td><td>30</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/2008</td><td>28</td><td>37</td></tr> <tr><td>02/05/2008</td><td>33</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr><td>01/03/2008</td><td>30</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>12/04/2007</td><td>31</td><td>33</td></tr> <tr><td>11/03/2007</td><td>31</td><td>38</td></tr> </tbody> </table><br><table border="0"> <tr> <td>Number meter</td> <td>3468786</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stand meter</td> <td>458</td> </tr> </table> | Fecha | Dianan | consumo m <sup>3</sup> | 07/02/2008 | 29 | 22 | 06/03/2008 | 31 | 40 | 05/03/2008 | 30 | 49 | 04/04/2008 | 30 | 40 | 03/04/2008 | 28 | 37 | 02/05/2008 | 33 | 44 | 01/03/2008 | 30 | 38 | 12/04/2007 | 31 | 33 | 11/03/2007 | 31 | 38 | Number meter | 3468786 | Stand meter | 458 |
|--|--|--|-------|--------|------------------------|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|------------|----|----|--------------|---------|-------------|-----|
| Fecha  | Dianan   | consumo m <sup>3</sup>   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 07/02/2008   | 29   | 22   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 06/03/2008   | 31   | 40   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 05/03/2008   | 30   | 49   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 04/04/2008   | 30   | 40   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 03/04/2008   | 28   | 37   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 02/05/2008   | 33   | 44   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 01/03/2008   | 30   | 38   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 12/04/2007   | 31   | 33   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| 11/03/2007   | 31   | 38   |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| Number meter   | 3468786  |  |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |
| Stand meter  | 458  |  |       |        |                        |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |            |    |    |              |         |             |     |

|   |   |                |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
|---|---|----------------|---------|-----|------|-----------|------------------------|--------|--|----------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------|--|------|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| <p>Tarifa : A</p> <p>Deposito : AWG 80.00</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>SALDO ANTERIOR</td> <td>1323.75</td> <td rowspan="2">} *</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAGO</td> <td>745.80 CR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SALDO PERIODO ANTERIOR</td> <td>577.95</td> <td></td> </tr> </table><br><table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Specificacion</b></td> <td><b>jun 2008</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumo 1</td> <td>3 m<sup>3</sup> @ AWG 4.55</td> <td>13.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumo 2</td> <td>3 m<sup>3</sup> @ AWG 5.40</td> <td>16.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumo 3</td> <td>6 m<sup>3</sup> @ AWG 7.55</td> <td>45.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumo 4</td> <td>8 m<sup>3</sup> @ AWG 16.10</td> <td>128.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumo Adicional</td> <td>2 m<sup>3</sup> @ AWG 18.65</td> <td>37.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Huur di meter</td> <td></td> <td>1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL PERIODO ACTUAL</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>242.25</b></td> </tr> </table> | SALDO ANTERIOR | 1323.75 | } * | PAGO | 745.80 CR | SALDO PERIODO ANTERIOR | 577.95 |  | <b>Specificacion</b> | <b>jun 2008</b> |  | Consumo 1 | 3 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 4.55 | 13.65 | Consumo 2 | 3 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 5.40 | 16.20 | Consumo 3 | 6 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 7.55 | 45.30 | Consumo 4 | 8 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 16.10 | 128.80 | Consumo Adicional | 2 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 18.65 | 37.30 | Huur di meter |  | 1.00 | <b>TOTAL PERIODO ACTUAL</b> |  | <b>242.25</b> |
| SALDO ANTERIOR                                | 1323.75   | } *            |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| PAGO  | 745.80 CR   |                |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| SALDO PERIODO ANTERIOR                        | 577.95  |                |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| <b>Specificacion</b>                          | <b>jun 2008</b>   |                |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Consumo 1                                     | 3 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 4.55   | 13.65          |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Consumo 2                                     | 3 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 5.40   | 16.20          |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Consumo 3                                     | 6 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 7.55   | 45.30          |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Consumo 4                                     | 8 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 16.10  | 128.80         |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Consumo Adicional                             | 2 m <sup>3</sup> @ AWG 18.65  | 37.30          |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| Huur di meter                                 |   | 1.00           |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |
| <b>TOTAL PERIODO ACTUAL</b>                   |   | <b>242.25</b>  |         |     |      |           |                        |        |  |                      |                 |  |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                             |       |           |                              |        |                   |                              |       |               |  |      |                             |  |               |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Ultimo dia pa paga : 14 aug 2008</p> <p>Periodo di cuenta : Jun 2008</p> <p>Total periodo actual : AWG.242.25</p> | <p>Fecha di estado di cuenta : 05 juli 2008</p> <p>Mensahenan : Pa informacion tocante bo cuenta yama nos number directo: 525-4200</p> <p>Saldo periodo anterior : AWG 577.95</p> |
|--|---|



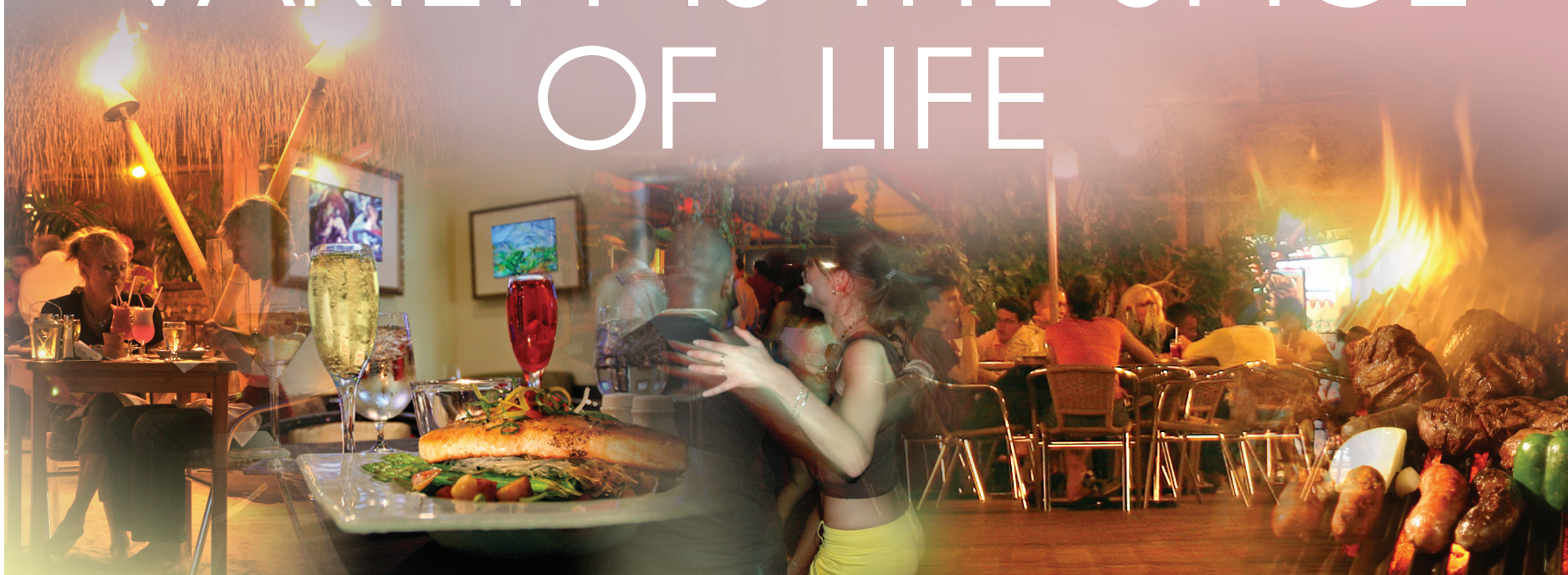
\* If you paid the amount "periodo anterior" you owe the "periodo actual"

Here you can see the debt of previous period(s), what has been paid already and adjustments

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